



tubeworker

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WE CAN WIN!

MAKE 8-9 JULY START OF ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO WIN SHORTER WORKING WEEK, A DECENT PAY DEAL, AND AN END TO JOB CUTS



With resounding votes for strikes returned by all four unions, 8-9 July is set to be fantastically solid.

We'll get a real sense of our potential power: when we stop working, London stops moving. It reminds us that it's us, the workers, who make society move. If our bosses didn't turn up to work for the day, who'd notice? But when we stop working... it matters.

We know management are on the warpath. They're taking advantage of what is, for them, a "perfect storm": right-wing administrations in City Hall and Westminster, both committed to privatisation and

Why we're stronger united

1. We can stop the job.
2. No-one can jump ship to another union to avoid striking.
3. Management can't use the fact of some unions not striking to slag off and isolate the one that is.
4. We get a sense of how powerful we are when we unite.
5. Members of different unions get to organise together, picket together, discuss strategies together.
6. The usual inter-union sniping tends to abate for a while!

It would be even better if we had:

1. One union for all Tube (and transport) workers.

attacking unions. Boris and LU bosses have combined to launch a radical project to completely restructure the way the Tube works. Some form of privatisation must surely be in their long-term plans. Attacks on our terms and conditions, job cuts, and ticket office closures are just the start.

Given this, we can be sure that it will take more than a 24-hour strike to stop them in their tracks. 8-9 July needs to be the start of an ongoing programme of escalating action that tells the bosses we're serious. The overtime ban, which starts from 9 July, can keep up the pressure, and unions must name dates for further action as soon as possible. If there's a pause after 9 July, it will allow the bosses to regain the momentum.

Our campaigns need to be proactive, foregrounding our positive demands, rather than just opposing what the bosses are doing. A positive campaign for a shorter working week (as our answer to bosses' plans to impose anti-social rosters) has, in the long term, a much better chance of mobilising and inspiring people than a campaign of defensive resistance.

Let's make sure we all know exactly what we're fighting for, as well as what we're fighting against.

What is Tubeworker?

Tubeworker is a rank-and-file socialist bulletin, published at least monthly, written by Tube workers, for Tube workers. It is published by the socialist group Workers' Liberty, but is produced in editorial

meetings open to all workers. Supporters from outside London Underground can help with public distribution.

Email us at tubeworker@workersliberty.org

GREEK WORKING CLASS FIGHTS ON

The Greek people, and particularly Greece's working class, have delivered a resounding and courageous "no" in the referendum on whether to accept further austerity and cuts.

The vote opens the path for renewed struggle against austerity. A key terrain for that fight is inside Syriza (the left-wing governing party) itself, as revolutionaries push for a more radical course than Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras looks likely to take. Tsipras and other Syriza leaders may use the no vote to simply buy more time in negotiations and propose a new compromise. Syriza's radical left should use the momentum of the no to push for measures such as social ownership of the banks and industry.

The outcome of the referendum is a political earthquake. It shows global and European financial institutions and neo-liberal governments that they cannot bully a people into submitting to economic misery.

Solidarity with Greek workers, solidarity with the left in Syriza!
For more, see workersliberty.org/world/greece.

Solidarity with the First Great Western strike!

RMT members on First Great Western, which runs services out of Paddington, will strike alongside us.

FGW is bringing in a new train fleet, which it plans to run without guards and buffet cars. Jobs are under threat.

RMT has often called strikes on FGW, but suspended them before the action goes ahead. That looks unlikely this time. Workers are gaining confidence from taking action on the same day as us; we should gain inspiration from their 48 hour action.

We should name our next strike dates soon, in conjunction with FGW comrades, and make the next strikes 48 hours or longer.

Are we “greedy” for fighting for a pay rise?



Since the economic crisis which began in 2007, the disparities between certain groups of workers have been cynically manipulated.

The right-wing media will shriek that Tube workers are “greedy” for fighting for pay increases when many of us are paid much more than, say, many nurses, teachers, or shop workers. When we fight to defend our final-salary pension scheme, the right-wing press will denounce us on the basis that we’re “selfishly” clinging onto a benefit most private-sector workers lost years ago, or never had.

That cynical ideological manipulation is used to turn workers against each other rather than focusing our fire on the common enemy - our bosses - who have done very well for themselves out of the crisis. Our pay is often compared to that of low-paid workers. Why is it never compared to that of a CEO, a university

Vice Chancellor, or a railway company boss? Their salaries dwarf all of ours.

The growing inequality in our society has been deliberately engineered by the capitalist class to ensure that we pay for the crisis they created. The working class in Britain has suffered the longest squeeze on real wages since records began. As well as fighting for our own pay, terms, and conditions, we should give the maximum solidarity to lower-paid workers’ struggles - most immediately, workers in our own industry and unions, such as cleaners, but also lending our support to the campaigns of unions in other industries, such as the Bakers’ union’s “Hungry For Justice” campaign for living wages for fast food workers, and Unite’s campaign in the hotel sector.

Although London Underground workers’ pay has not suffered as much as other workers in the past few years, we are still affected by sharp increases in living costs, such as rent. The CSA’s starting salary of just over £30,000 is being increasingly stretched as London rents skyrocket.

We should not apologise for, or feel guilty about, fighting for a pay rise. But our perspective should be to situate our fight within a wider working-class push to reclaim some of the economic ground we have lost since 2007.

JEREMY CORBYN FOR LABOUR LEADER!



Join Labour or resister as a supporter to vote for Jeremy Corbyn - the only pro-worker candidate in the election!

www.jeremyforlabour.com (main campaign page)

www.facebook.com/railworkers4corbyn (rail and transport workers for Corbyn network)

Fight the anti-union laws!

The high votes and solid turnouts in RMT and ASLEF’s ballots give an immense democratic mandate to the LU strikes, even on the Tories’ terms.

But justifiable pride at having returned such results should not get in the way of a militant campaign to stop the imposition of new anti-union laws. RMT’s AGM discussed, and passed unanimously, several resolutions (including some moved by Workers’ Liberty members active in RMT branches) committing the union to work towards a real national campaign, including a demonstration, against the laws.

Activists in branches across unions have formed a “Right To Strike” mobilising committee to help coordinate grassroots activity.

For more information, see facebook.com/righttostrike

Our bodies aren’t built to work at night: More night shifts? We need more time off to recover!

Chief Operating Officer, Steve Griffiths, belittled our Night Tube concerns when he said, “train staffare being asked to work around an additional seven nights each year on average”.

But Steve Griffiths won’t have to work these shifts! Seven might not sound like many extra nights to him, but it sounds a lot more to those of us who will have to work them.

The human body has evolved to follow a circadian rhythm; we’re programmed to sleep when it’s dark. Low light levels trigger our brains to release a chemical, melatonin, so our heart rate and body temperature drops. The Health and Safety Executive says, “the incidence of accidents and injuries has been found to be higher on night shifts”.

It takes up to a week to restore your body clock after just one night shift. Seven extra night shifts could easily wreck seven weeks of our life a year – nearly two months!

The main flaw in the way LU is implementing Night Tube is that it is offering no additional rest periods to compensate for the additional strain on our bodies. *Tubeworker* is arguing that unions’ claims for a four-day, 32-hour week should be central to this dispute. Yes, we want a bonus, consolidated into our pay, but we cannot put a price tag on our health. More than anything else, in return for Night Tube, we demand the chance to rest, to recover, and minimise the health impacts of night work.

Tubeworker also wants our unions to demand for LU to recruit more staff and abandon its job cuts plans so we can work fewer - not more - night shifts.

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Got a story for *Tubeworker*? We welcome reports and comments from all Tube workers.

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